

ranges with many interesting rock and mineral formations.

Several universities have conducted field trips to make special studies of these attractions.

In the early Spring, the mountains are an array of beautiful wild flowers of shades. A botanical study made the past Spring revealed hundreds of varieties of flowers blooming. Some of those found included: Lady's Slipper - in both pink and yellow; Orchids; Spring Beauties; Water Lilies; Wind Flowers; Columbine; Marsh Marigold; Buttercups; Bloodroot; Blue Lupino; Sweetbrier Rose; Wood Sorrel, and Fringed Polygala. As a result of the presence of so many flowers, 500 acres have been set aside as an arboretum for botany students in West Virginia University and other colleges.

Construction work is being carried on by two companies of Civilian Conservation Corps stationed in the park. T. M. Cheek, State Park Authority, supervises the plans that are developing a park system in West Virginia that will rival those in other States. Boyd B. Hill, and Grady H. Arbogast, Camp Superintendents, are in charge of the construction projects under way in Watoga State Park.

All of the parks are being financed mainly through Federal funds. Once they have been completed and turned over to the State authorities, it will be the responsibility of the State to maintain and operate the parks.

Inventory of Materials

Mr. Rella F. Yeager

From Camp Traper -1-
and Pocahontas officials

Sent to Rella Yeager

For research work

WATOGA STATE PARK

500

Watoga State Park is owned by the State of West Virginia and contains 10,025 acres. 500 acres of this being virgin oak and white pine forest, 12 acres in lake, 100 acres of open meadow, leaving a total of 9413 acres of young forests or wooded land, which is well stocked with wild game. Approximately 4000 acres will be left as nature intended. The fame of this park is spreading and this rolling world would like to visit this picnic place on high mountains, clear streams, deep shady canyons, long wooded ridges, and open grassy places.

For the good of the United States as a whole and of West Virginia and its adjoining states in particular, it is a necessity that Watoga State Park be developed as quickly as possible so it can be used as an outing place for the public. This work of developing should be carried forward with utmost dispatch rather than be retarded by cutting down forces which at present are none too large to put Watoga State Park in shape to receive guests.

The National Park Service and State Park ECW in co-operation with the Conservation Commission fits in with the scheme of the old fashioned idea of a good time by getting back to nature and taking the women and children along. While visitors to the Yellow Stone National Park number into the hundreds of thousands each year, only a very small percentage of the people can avail themselves of this privilege by reason of great distances from centers of population. Then too, the many visitors who do visit Yellow Stone National Park do not necessarily follow the injunction given of

old, "to see Venice and die." Even they are possible visitors to Watoga State Park.

The Watoga State Park is partially surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest, and one will supplement the other in that there is no hunting on the park but nice head-quarters in the way of cabins for those who wish to hunt in the National Forest, and it will also furnish recreational areas for these hunters.

There is also unusual attractions in the Watoga State Park for students of geology and botany. Here begin the folded ranges of the endless mountains, and the park will supply headquarters and starting places to study first hand, probably the most interesting geological formations in all the country, without which the knowledge of no student is complete. Witness the continued expeditions of classes from Columbia, Dennison, and other Universities to this region.

As for the students of botany, we have the overlapping of the Canadian, Carolinian, and Virginian species of plants. There is a possibility in the future of this park taking care of field classes in botany not only from colleges and universities, but from high schools as well. No training in this most interesting and absorbing study can be complete without firsthand knowledge of this region where northern and southern flora mix with that you would naturally expect here.

People too, like to visit the Greenbrier Valley because of its rich Colonial, Revolutionary, Indian, and Traditional history. Watoga State Park when ready, will add its attractions to bring students of history here. The Park lies within two miles, connected with paved road, of U. S. Route 219, known as the Seneca Trail.

The Warrior's Road of James Fennimore Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales," stretching from the Seneca Lake, New York to Georgia. Locally this road was known as Kentucky Trace, traveled by Daniel Boone and other pioneers. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt writes of this in his "Winning of the West." George Washington referred to the people of this valley, in the darkest days of the War for Independence, as those who would save the country if all came to all. This park was a part of the neutral hunting grounds of Northern, Southern and Western Indian Tribes and as they were loath to give it up, this area became one of the bloodiest battle grounds in the Indian Wars. In the War between the States the sections surrounding this park was virtually a race track for the contending armies.

During the past season on holidays, Sundays, and even work days this park was run over with visitors. The majority of them demanding cabins, picnic grounds and other recreational facilities sufficiently to convince all officers concerned of the popularity of this park when completed.

At the present time there are 24 permanent structures, one dam forming a twelve acre lake, 13 miles of park roads, 14 miles of combination foot, horse and truck trails, 1 mile of electric power line, 12 miles of telephone lines, 23 miles of fencing, one lookout house, three vehicle bridges, 7,000 feet of water line, five drilled wells. In addition to that above, there is now under construction, one dwelling and eight cabins. To bring this park to within a semblance of completion, the following projects are being carried on; one guide and contact station, then additional over night cabins, 4000 feet of sewerage disposal system, two

miles of telephone lines, four miles of electric power lines, 4000 feet of pipe line, 12 acres of picnic area, five wells and pump houses, four miles of park roads surface for all year around use, two acres of landscaping around dam and lake, two picnic shelters, five miles of fencing, 600 rods of guard rail, 5 camp stoves and fire places, 20 tables and bench combination, forty acres of food cover planting.

A great work is well begun and it will require the combined effort of at least two camps to complete it in the style, within a reasonable time.

West Virginian's should never miss an opportunity to thank and commend our Congressman Randolph for his splendid co-operation, tireless efforts and valuable assistance in his fight to maintain the West Virginia CCC camps at their present strength.

Inventory of Materials

Topic: Conservation and
Pleasure

Title: Watauga State Park - Camp Seebert
Author: Rella F. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 750 words

Editor: _____

Status: Complete

Contents: Complete statement on
Watauga Park - Camp Seebert. Gives
directions for reaching Park, descrip-
tion, recreational facilities; Camp
Seebert accomplishments, area, cost,
educational facilities of CCC boys.

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: _____

Folder: _____

Rella F. Yeager

Rella Yeager
Hillsboro



Tom
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WATOOGA STATE PARK.

"National Park Service
and Conservation Commission"
of West Virginia

-1-

Each week of the summer brings larger and larger numbers of tourists to visit Watoga State Park, and to enjoy the beauties of nature so abundantly displayed there. Facilities are being developed to make the Park an even greater attraction to tourists. Near the lake three log cabins to accommodate tourists are being completed. Each of the cabins will provide ample room for a family of five. Each will be furnished with electric lights and running water.

Watoga State Park is doing much to give Pocahontas county an undisputed claim to the title of "The most Beautiful County in West Virginia," a title which no one who has lived long amid its picturesque beauty would ever think of questioning.

The visitors are likely to approach the Park over the Huntersville road and enter at the north corner. From this point, a well built road winds up Pyles Mountain and leads down Island Lick Run at a gentle grade. Mountains tower above on either side. Suddenly the valley widens and an expanse of water appears. This body of water is a recreational lake impounded by a dam constructed by Company 1525, CCC Camp Watoga. The lake covers eleven acres and has a depth of twenty-five feet at the dam. The purpose of this lake is to provide recreation in the form of swimming, boating, and fishing. It plays its part in erosion and flood control.

At the head of the lake is a game enclosure in which many deer, wild turkeys and coons were fed and sheltered during the past winter. A number of these wild game animals including several broods of turkeys may still be seen at the enclosure.

On one side of the lake a motor trail ascends to an elevation of about three thousand two hundred feet. From this high ridge a spacious panorama of mountains and farms, streams and woodlands are unfolded. If the visitor continues down Island Lick Run from the lake he sees wild flowers in profusion on all sides. Cabins designed to be in harmony with the scenery around them are found along the way. This road ends at Camp Seebert on Greenbrier River.

Other beautiful excursions, some accessible to motor travel, some open to ^{hikers} only, are afforded within the nine thousand, six hundred and eighty one acres embraced by the Park.

The National Park Service and Conservation Commission of West Virginia extends to the public an invitation to visit our Parks.

F. Yeager
[Handwritten signature]

By Congressman Edmiston
Watoga

~~CCC WORK~~

CAMP SEEBERT

Congressman Andrew Edmiston returned this week from a two-weeks vacation at Camp Seebert, Watoga State Park, Pocahontas County, where he had an opportunity to observe the work of the Civilian Conservation corps.

The work of the CCC has been expressed in many ways, said Congressman Edmiston, but perhaps never better than by a young man with whom I talked while in Camp Watoga. The boy said:

"The CCC has greatly changed the outlook on life I had many months ago when I entered camp. I am no longer discouraged and easily beaten. I believe that I can find a position when I leave camp, and hold it as well as the man who is working next to me. The CCC has given me self-confidence and new ambition to succeed".

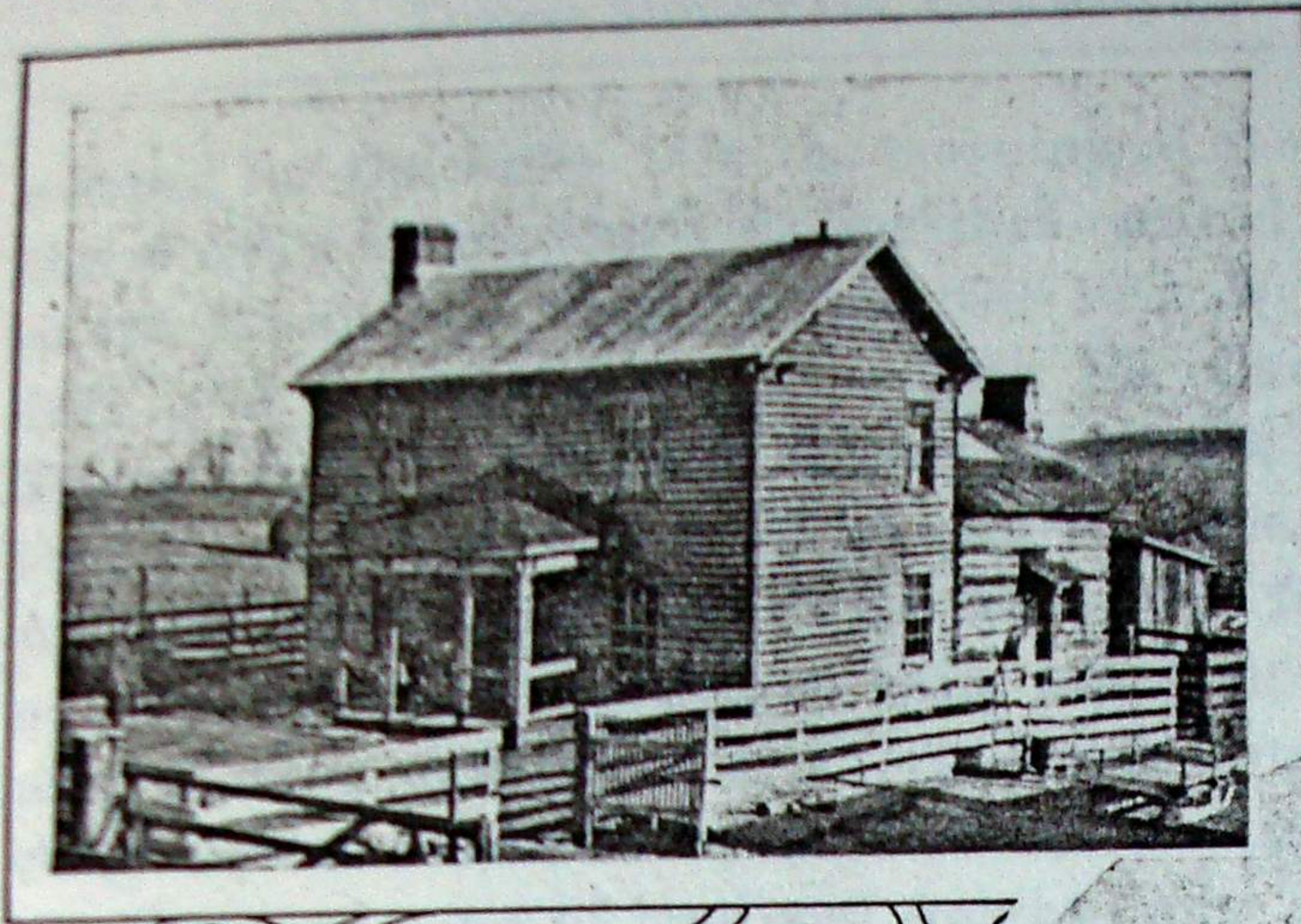
There are two companies at Watoga. In the two years they have been there they have constructed twenty-seven miles of excellent road through the mountains, Congressman Edmiston said. He continued to laud the camp, saying that the young men have constructed a forty-foot dam which impounds a beautiful artificial lake. It is being stocked with fish, and it will be a haven for sportsmen when it is opened to the public next summer.

Thirty of a program of fifty attractive log cabins have been built. They will be rented by the week to the public. The camp is built on 11,000 acres of waste timber land which was purchased by the state at \$2.00 per acre, and it is one of the most attractive state parks, said Mr. Edmiston.

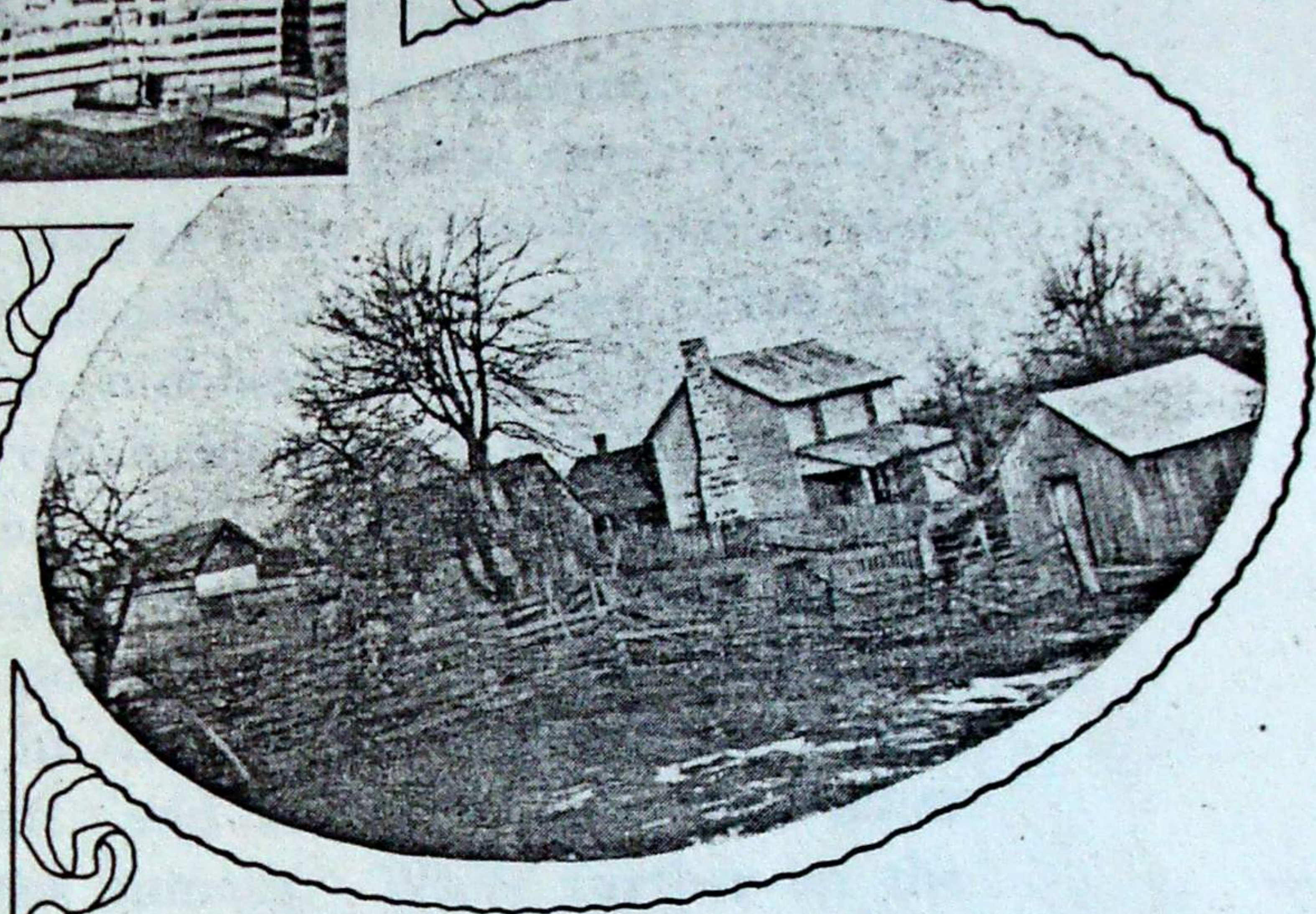
Fire Stations and reforestation work will continue in this part. From the beginning the CCC has judged its projects for their social and economic value, said the congressman. Improvement of forests and parks, reduction of loss from forest fires, insects, tree diseases, halting of soil wastage by erosion, development of public recreational areas, flood control, and conservation of wild life.

The boys in the camps have an opportunity to study and receive special competent instruction in stone masonry, surveying, forestry, terracing, road building, electrical work, project management, agriculture, auto repair, carpentry, cooking, mechanical drawing, radio servicing, and plane surveying. The foresight of President Roosevelt has given them a new lease on life, said Congressman Edmiston.

CIVIL WAR



TEMPORARY HOSPITAL,
NOW SPICE POSTOFFICE.
BAXTER DIED HERE,
NOV. 7, 1863.



HOUSE IN WHICH
MAJOR BAILEY DIED,
NOV. 7, 1863



TREE UNDER WHICH
GEN. ROBT. E. LEE SLEPT,
NIGHT OF SEPT. 15, 1861.
NEAR DROOP MOUNTAIN.



AVERELL'S HOSPITAL-
BEARD'S RESIDENCE
AT HILLSBORO.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

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